GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:324
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
National Policy for Farmers
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Government to review the National Policy for Farmers to address the agrarian crisis forcing distressed cultivators to end their lives in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Union Government has extended any support to the State Government for the development of agriculture and mitigation of the effects of agrarian crisis in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the extent to which the aims and objectives of Sub-Mission on Agricultural mechanisation (SMAM) has achieved in the country along with the funds provided to the States thereunder during the said period; and

(f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

???? ??? ????? ?????? ???????? ??? ????? ?????? (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The Court wanted to ascertain from the Department whether it is necessary to revisit the Policy, which is now almost 8 years old. This Department has initiated action to revisit the existing policy.

(c) & (d): The State Governments are primarily responsible for development of the agriculture sector. However, the Government of India supplements the efforts of the States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Various programmes/ schemes/missions for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. Some of the important schemes/programmes implemented are National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm

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(NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension &Technology (NMAET); National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP); Unified National Agricultural Markets; Soil Health Card (SHC); Neem Coated Urea (NCU); Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY); and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The State-wise allocation during each of the last three years and the current year under the various schemes/programmes is at Annexure I.

The agricultural crisis tends to get visible during times of natural calamities like drought, pest attack, hailstorm, etc. For undertaking relief measures funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund. Over and above this, the Union Government is also supporting the States through the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in wake of natural calamities. The funds released during the last 3 years and current year is as follows:
Year Central Assistance under NDRF
2012-13 Rs. 4464.64 Crore
2013-14 Rs. 2854.19 Crore
2014-15 Rs. 9017.99 Crore
2015-16 Rs. 1540.20 Crore (till date)

In addition to this, the Government also announces special packages, such as PM's Rehabilitation Package for suicide prone districts in various States, Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme 2008, Special Package to mitigate the hardships faced by farmers in Kerala, Drought mitigation in Bundelkhand and Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme.

(e): The extent of achievements made and funds allocated/released under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) during

2014-15 and 2015-16 are at Annexures II & III.

(f): Other measures taken for the benefit of the farmers include enhancement in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) to eliminate distress sale of agricultural produce by farmers, support to the farmers from time to time like debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure, etc.